



NEWS RELEASE

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DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER DURHAM TO RETIRE

Deputy Wake County Manager Joe Durham announced today, Tuesday September 23 2014 that he will retire at the end of December. Durham has worked in local government in North Carolina for more than 30 years, including the last 13 years with Wake County.

In a message to County employees, Durham said, "serving as Deputy County Manager here in Wake County for the last 13 years has been a truly gratifying experience. It has been personally and professionally rewarding to help lead this organization through a transformational period in the history of our region and to serve our County with each of you."

Durham served as Deputy County Manager since 2001, and served as Interim County Manager for five months in late 2013 and early 2014.

"Joe played an integral role as interim County manager before I arrived, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Joe," said Wake County manager Jim Hartmann. "Joe is the most capable deputy I could have ever hoped to have as I came to Wake County. The staff and I will miss both his comradery and leadership."

During Durham's tenure with the County, Wake's population grew from 600,000 to more than a million and the budget grew from \$578 million to more than \$1 billion. "I am proud of the accomplishments that all of us have made in accommodating the tremendous growth and adhering to our commitment to provide high quality customer focused services."

"My decision to retire was predicated on the opportunity to pursue new challenges. I am interested in using my skills in public service to continue to contribute to the advancement of our county and state."

As Deputy County Manager Durham has provided oversight for all external departments including Environmental Services, Community Services, Human Services, Workforce Development, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Services, Emergency Management, and the City – County Bureau of Identification.

"Joe has been a tremendous asset to Wake County," said Wake County Board of Commissioners chair Phil Matthews. "He is not only a consummate manager, but a friend to Commissioners and staff alike. He will certainly be missed."

His previous experience includes eight years as County Manager of Edgecombe County; He has also worked for the City of Rocky Mount, The Wooten Company in Raleigh, The North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, the City of Sanford and Richmond County.

The County plans to begin the search process for the new Deputy County Manager before Durham retires.

Media Note: A current photo of Joe Durham is available for download at www.wakegov.com/news.